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“SPIRIT” the Seahawk

Sunderland Promotes Integrity, Responsibility, Independence & Trust

August 30, 2020

It's TIME!!! School opens on Wednesday, September 2nd!

Good afternoon, Seahawks!

We are preparing for our students to join us this week! It is going to take everyone some time to “get in the groove” of the virtual learning environment, but we are all dedicated to helping you and your child navigate this new world. We are also learning new tools and platforms every day to support the teaching, so we will ask for your patience and understanding, as well. One thing that we know is that together we can do great things! #SESTOGETHER

This virtual learning experience during 2020-2021 is different than in the spring! In the spring, we were in crisis teaching mode. It was not something we anticipated. This year, we are very intentional and deliberate with providing live online instruction for the students during the synchronous learning time and additional small group targeted instruction combined with independent learning during the asynchronous learning time.

Earlier in the summer, we surveyed families about their choice for AM or PM live instruction. We have tried to accommodate everyone's request. However, we have had many families choose to provide home schooling instead of our virtual learning. This has impacted our staffing in grade levels. Last week, we had to make a shift in teaching staff between grade levels. We will continue to make choices that are focused on what is best for students. We have started receiving requests for shifts between AM and PM sessions. We can not meet every request, at this time for changes. We will take each case and work with you to brainstorm the best solution.

The teachers are assigned to an AM class or a PM class. Your students will be online live in AM or PM, but the teachers will be teaching live small groups and working with students during the opposite time, as well. Our teaching staff will be teaching all day, just like they do with in person, face to face instruction.

I share all of this to help everyone understand how this will all work. You are going to have questions; you are going to have fears that students are not getting enough; you are going to have moments where it all may seem like too much! Please know that we understand those feelings too. We have felt the same way but again- TOGETHER, WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS!

Never hesitate to ask your questions! The teachers will respond or they will let you know they are seeking out the answer. If you need some support, reach out to our counselor, Mrs. Hilton! She will be sending out more information through the classroom teachers with a link to sign up for time with her. We are here for you and we look forward to a great year ahead keeping our focus on what is best for the students! ~Pam Kasulke, Principal

News this week

As we prepare for the new experience ahead, I would encourage all families to become familiar with the term “productive struggle” and the importance of it for all student learning. As you support your student, please remember to guide not complete work for them- it will not help them. As a parent, we want our children to have an easier life, but they need to know how to struggle as well. I have attached a few links that describe productive struggle.

There are several definitions for productive struggle but they all have common elements:

- “...productive struggle—effortful practice that goes beyond passive reading, listening, or watching—that builds useful, lasting understanding and skill.” Heibert, J. & Grouws, D. (2007) The Effects of Classroom Mathematics Teaching on Students’ Learning
- “...students grapple with the issues and are able to come up with a solution themselves, developing persistence and resilience in pursuing and attaining the learning goal or understanding.” Jackson, R., & Lambert, C. How to Support Struggling Students
- Productive struggle is developing strong habits of mind, such as perseverance and thinking flexibly, instead of simply seeking the correct solution. Not knowing how to solve a problem at the outset should be expected. The key is working through a problem, encouraging students to think outside the box, and not letting them get discouraged if their initial strategies don’t work.(persistence to task)
- <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/harnessing-power-of-productive-struggle-ellie-cowen#:~:text=%20Productive%20Struggle%20%201%20it%20prioritizes%20the,solutions%20that%20are%20grounded%20in%20logic...%20More%20>
- <https://www.edutopia.org/article/7-guiding-principles-parents-teaching-home>
- <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2019-10-28-why-struggle-is-essential-for-the-brain-and-our-lives>

We have several attachments for you to review. Please know that over the next few weeks, you will receive many emails of correspondence. We will try to condense information down into fewer emails, but some items may be time sensitive so we would not hold them for the Sunday Seahawk News. You will receive the Seahawk News each Sunday afternoon from Ms. Kasulke, the principal and you will receive ongoing correspondence from your child’s teacher.

- On Wednesday, September 2nd, your child’s teacher has planned to either meet in whole group, small groups or individually. You will see directions in the attachment for logging into Teams. Your student will use their Microsoft Teams Calendar. See the attachment.
- Pre K, Kindergarten and Head Start will have a staggered start schedule. This is to allow time for parents and teachers to meet together and meet the student. See the attachment.
- Synchronous lessons will be video recorded for families to review if they are absent. Please review the information and complete the permission letter. See the two attachments.
- Pre K – 2nd grade families: If you need a laptop for your student to use for their learning, please email our IT depart at ccpsdevicehelp@calvertnet.k12.md.us. You will need your child’s student ID #. Please email or call Mrs. Hartley at hartleyp@calvertnet.k12.md.us or call 443-550-9390 if you need your child’s ID#. It is their student number (lunch number) that they will use for logging into their Team meeting too. They use it for everything
- The Student supply list is attached for parents to purchase. If you need any supplies, please contact Mrs. Hilton at hiltond@calvertnet.k12.md.us
- We will have a Student Tool Kit pick up the second week of September. We have materials that we will send home for students to use during their instruction. We will have various times for working parents. More details to come.

Past Information

Greetings Seahawk Families,

We have missed YOU and our young Seahawks!! We are getting close to the start of the school year and there are lots of questions about laptops, schedules, teachers, and more. While this is not the traditional start to the school year, we are excited to get back to business and look forward to “seeing” students very soon!

We are thrilled to welcome the following ***Seahawks*** into our ***“Nest”***:

- ↘ Amanda Merillat, Instructional Support/Teacher Coach
- ↘ Bill Kearns, Special Education Teacher
- ↘ Ishakeema (Keema)Swain, Special Education Teacher
- ↘ Larissa (Lara) Parreira, Speech Language Pathologist
- ↘ Gwen Lewis, Pre K Teacher
- ↘ Lamar Johnson, Head Start Instructional Assistant
- ↘ Tia Brooks, Head Start Transition Assistant
- ↘ Corinne Minichino, 3rd Grade Teacher
- ↘ Debborah Lahre-Joyner, School Psychologist

We look forward to getting to know you and our new staff better throughout the year!

We have been preparing for the students to get back to their learning! Many questions still exist but we will do our best to put some of your fears at ease. As we move into the 2021 school year, please take time to review the following information and I hope that this will help answer some your questions. More information will be coming from your child’s teachers next week which will help bring the whole picture together!

Laptops:

Laptops were distributed this week to students in grades 3-5, and parents were contacted regarding those specifics. If you have a child in grades PreK-2, you will need to contact the CCPS IT department using the information listed below to schedule pick up of a device (as of now, there is only one device per household for a student in grades Prek-2, but we may be able to accommodate once we have distributed to all families). **ccpsdevicehelp@calvertnet.k12.md.us or give them a call at 443-550-8146**

Teacher Assignment, Greet Your Seat and Open House:

Our teachers will be emailing a “Welcome to my class” email to all families by August 25th. This is how your child and you will know the teacher’s name. On August 25th, student schedules will be available in HAC. Students who are new to CCPS will receive HAC letters the first week of school. Our Home Access Center allows parents to view grades, test scores, schedules and much more for their student. If you have been a student in CCPS and do not have access to HAC, please contact the main office for assistance.

Students start school September 2nd, and instruction will be 100% online. Our Meet the Teacher event will be virtual this year, on September 2nd and September 3rd. Look for an invite from your teacher during the week of August 24th to schedule a meeting date and time. Logistics are still being worked out for our virtual Open House, so you will receive additional information at a later date regarding that event.

Students with IEPs:

Parents with students who have specialized instruction needs will be contacted by their special education teacher soon to discuss the need for in-person learning set to begin on September 21st.

Safety:

The health and safety of everyone in our community is paramount. Please adhere to the procedures below if you plan to make an appointment to come to the school.

During the period of Blended Learning, prior to staff or students entering buildings, each individual should respond to the following questions:

- Has the individual or anyone in the family been sick with dry cough, shortness of breath, chills, fever, muscle or body aches, sore throat, or loss of sense of taste or smell in the last 14 days?
- Has the individual or anyone in the family been exposed to COVID-19 and asked to isolate for 14 days? If yes who was directed to isolate and what date did the isolation to start? **(Ensure isolation time is up and no symptoms were present during the 14-day isolation time.)**
- Has the individual or anyone in the family tested positive for COVID-19? If yes who and when? Were they having any symptoms? **(If not having symptoms the individual can report for testing or services if 10 days have passed since positive test.)**
- If unsure if it is safe for an individual to report for instructional services consult with Student Services Kim Roof or Chris Knode.)
- If a student becomes ill while at school, the student must be sent home as soon as possible and can only return to school with a health-care provider's note.
- If a staff person becomes ill while at school or during the school day, they must stop immediately, notify the building administrator and the staff person is to leave the building immediately.

Once we return to the building for face to face instruction full-time, additional safety information will be shared with families.

Expectations, Grading, and Attendance:

Teachers will deliver instruction aligned with the school's curriculum and monitor student attendance through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning.

Live Synchronous Learning – remote learning that happens in real-time with the interaction between the teacher and students that occurs in a virtual classroom setting, i.e. access from home via web conferencing. Attendance is required and will be taken during scheduled live synchronous classes. In addition, active engagement and participation are expected during synchronous learning. Students are expected to attend and participate. Recordings of the lessons will take place for those special exceptions. Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- direct instruction
- targeted small group instruction
- discussions
- collaborative groups
- assessment

Asynchronous Learning – learning that occurs online or offline without real-time interaction or instruction by an educator. Examples may include but not limited to:

- digital platform instruction (Lexia, Dreambox, Schoology)
- pre-recorded video lessons
- resource videos
- assigned readings
- independent practice
- paper/pencil learning activities

- rotation/center activities
- posted assignments

Grading – Calvert County will return to the use of current grading procedures as outlined in Policy/Procedure 3415.1. This includes letter grades, due dates, deadlines, product and process assignments, and reassessments. Teachers will continue to place emphasis on feedback to students in addition to letter grades. Students may be required to report to a testing site or utilize a secure browser for national, state, and local assessments.

Schedules (Synchronous vs Asynchronous):

Elementary school students will be expected to follow their school schedule modified over five days with one day of asynchronous, independent learning (see example schedule below). The sample below gives you an idea of how we will divide the time for students. Your child’s teacher will send your child’s specific classroom schedule.

Key for example schedule provided below

Blue Live Online Learning	Orange Application Time (teacher directed)	Green Social Emotional Learning & Health	Yellow Breaks and Lunch	Grey Independent Learning Time	Purple Prep Time	White Principal Directed PLC
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	Morning Cohort Mon. & Thur.	Morning Cohort Tue. & Fri	Afternoon Cohort Mon. & Thur.	Afternoon Cohort Tue. & Fri.	Wednesday
8:00 – 8:30	SEL & Health	SEL & Health	Independent Learning	Independent Learning	Independent Learning Time Students should create a schedule that works best for their day that allows for them to engage in 30 minutes of Independent Learning Time for each class period.
8:30 – 9:00	English Language Arts	Math			
9:00 – 9:15	15 Min. Break	15 Min. Break	Application Time	Application Time	
9:15 – 9:45	English Language Arts	Math			
9:45 – 10:00	15 Min. Break	15 Min. Break			
10:00 – 10:30	Social Studies	Science			
10:30 – 10:45	15 Min. Break	15 Min. Break			
10:45 – 11:15	Art/Library/Music/PE	Art/Library/Music/PE			
11:15 – 12:15	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
12:15 – 12:45	Application Time	Application Time	SEL & Health	SEL & Health	
12:45 – 1:15			English Language Arts	Math	
1:15 – 1:30			15 Min. Break	15 Min. Break	
1:30 – 2:00			English Language Arts	Math	
2:00 – 2:15			15 Min. Break	15 Min. Break	
2:15 – 2:30			Social Studies	Science	
2:30 – 2:45	Independent Learning	Independent Learning	15 Min. Break	15 Min. Break	
2:45 – 3:00			Art/Library/Music/PE	Art/Library/Music/PE	
3:00 – 3:30					

Planning for Success at Home:

We recognize that this is an unusual time for all. Our goal is to support and offer ways to help your child maximize their virtual learning time. Below are some helpful tips:

- Start by setting up a workspace for each school-aged child in your family. A desk, table, or other work surface will help your child keep materials organized and make it easier to focus on school.



- Make sure each child has their supplies/materials for the day before online teaching begins. Pencil sharpened? Notebook? Computer/Device charged and logged in? Manipulatives?
- Use the break time to get up and move, use the bathroom, and snack/hydrate. The teachers will be using some Go Noodle or other technique to help students with brain and body breaks!
- Limit/Remove distractions like pets, siblings, toys, TVs, etc.

Supplies:

The county has made one list this year for families of elementary students. Please gather these [materials](#) for each of your students prior to September 4th.

Additionally, the county has purchased supplies that students will need for instruction. These include ELA and Math workbooks and manipulatives. Families will be contacted once these supplies have arrived and we will arrange times for pick up.

Finally, families will be asked to come to the school monthly to pick up printed materials needed for instruction. Again, these dates and times will be communicated to you in advance to allow for planning.

Who do I contact if I need help?:

We know that this is going to be a new experience for all of us and that questions will arise. We want you to get answers as quickly as possible so the best way to do that is to have you ask them to the right person. Your child's teacher will be the first contact to help you. If your teacher is unable to help, she or he may suggest contact our admin team. Please feel free to call or email at 443-550-9390 or email Ms. Kasulke at kasulkep@calvertnet.k12.md.us or Ms. Rudzinski at rudzinskit@calvertnet.k12.md.us We will be happy to help!

504 questions: *Ms. Kasulke*

Absence (due to illness, appointment, technical difficulties): email the teacher

Absence (due to vacation): email the principal

Behavior: email the teacher first, then the school counselor

Computers: ccpsdevicehelp@calvertnet.k12.md.us or call at 443-550-8146

Computer Programs: ccpsapplicationhelp@calvertnet.k12.md.us or call at 443-550-8146

Cyberbullying and Computer misuse: email the principal

Family Support: email the school counselor or social worker

Food: email the assistant principal

Fund Raising: email the FSO and principal

Grades: check HAC first, then email the teacher

HAC: email the school secretary

Health: email the school nurse

Instruction: email the teacher of the content

Materials: email the school secretary

Moving: email the school secretary

Social Emotional: email the school counselor

Special Education: email the assistant principal or IEP facilitator

Thank you for taking the time to review this important information. We are looking forward to some exciting things that will help our students gain new exposures and help them be successful in this virtual start to the school year. We hope to build on our foundation from last spring. This experience will be different than the spring crisis teaching!

We look forward to growing our students with the help of an awesome staff and caring parents like you! As a valued partner in education, please do not hesitate to contact us with any input or questions.

Stay safe,
Pamela Kasulke
Principal, Sunderland Elementary School

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together!”

~ Vincent Van Gogh